

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 04811 231413Z

41

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4811

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ET EEC SW SZ XG

SUBJECT: HIGH-LEVEL ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION TO EUROPE

LONDON FOR HAVERKAMP; PARIS FOR MELONE

1. PRESS APRIL 22 REPORTED DEPARTURE APRIL 20 OF "FACT-FINDING"
DELEGATION TO EUROPE LED BY POLAD TO PMAC CHAIRMAN LIJ MICHAEL
IMRU.

2. ALTHOUGH PRESS IS SILENT ON THAT POINT, WE UNDERSTAND THAT MOFA'S
PERMSEC GETACHEW KIBRET AND MINCOMMUNICATION AND POSTS TEKELIGN
GEDAMU (FORMERLY HEAD OF ETHIOPIAN PLANNING COMMISSION) ACCOMPANY-
ING LIJ MICHAEL.

3. MOFA'S VICEMIN AYELE MOLTOTOL (EUROPEAN AFFAIRS) TOLD US
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 04811 231413Z

APRIL 21 THAT DELEGATION DUE TO CONFER IN BRUSSELS AND MAY

VISIT "OTHER PLACES" BUT THAT MOFA STILL WITHOUT RESPONSES TO ITS REQUESTS DEL BE RECEIVED. HE WOULD NOT AMPLIFY.

4. CHIEF EDITOR ENA, HOWEVER, ASSERTED THAT DEL GOING TO GENEVA AND LIKELY TO LONDON, PARIS, BONN AND ROME. SWISS HERE CONFIRM THAT LIJ MICHAEL DUE IN GENEVA BUT STATE THEY HAVE NO INFORMATION ON WHAT HE WILL DO THERE. ETHIOPIANS HAVE TOLD THEM ONLY THAT LIJ MICHAEL INTENDS TRANSIT GENEVA EN ROUTE STOCKHOLM. SWEDISH COLLEAGUES CONFIRM THAT SWEDISH GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ASKED RECEIVE LIJ MICHAEL DELEGATION BUT THEY (COLLEAGUES) NOT AWARE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT'S FINAL ANSWER. ETHIOPIANS, MEANWHILE, HAVE BEEN TOLD BY SWEDES THAT DELEGATION WOULD BE WELCOME PROVIDING ONLY THAT RANKING SWEDISH MINISTERS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO RECEIVE IT. SWEDES HERE ARE EAGER TO KEEP ETHIOPIAN REQUEST FOR VISIT QUIET BECAUSE THEY NOT RPT NOT SURE THAT SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER WILL, IN FACT, BE IN STOCKHOLM, IN WHICH CASE THEY MIGHT HAVE TO DECLINE TO RECEIVE ETHIOPIANS UNLESS SCHEDULES CAN BE ADJUSTED.

5. BELGIAN COLLEAGUE HAS SIMILAR PROBLEM. IT SEEMS DELEGATION LEFT BEFORE BRUSSELS EC COMMISSION COULD REPLY WHETHER OR NOT ITS VISIT TIMELY. REPRESENTATIVES EC NINE HERE HAVE, OF COURSE, INFORMED RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS OF LIJ MICHAEL DELEGATION'S DESIRE CONSULT WITH COMMISSION AND IT IS PRESUMED THAT DELEGATION WILL, IN FACT, BE RECEIVED BY CHAISSON, KROHN AND POSSIBLY ORTOLI. NEITHER BRITISH REPS, NOR FRENCH, NOR GERMANS OR ITALIAN REPS HERE HAVE ANY WORD THAT DELEGATION WILL WISH TO GO TO THEIR CAPITALS TO ENGAGE IN BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH THEIR GOVERNMENTS. FRENCH TELL US, HOWEVER, THAT ETHIOPIANS SEVERAL WEEKS AGO MANIFESTED INTENTION SEND A MISSION TO PARIS. FRENCH SAY THEY RESPONDED THEN THAT MISSION WOULD BE WELCOME BUT THAT ITS CONVERSATIONS WITH GOF WOULD HAVE TO BE PREPARED. THIS WAS NOT RPT NOT DONE.

6. WE WOULD SPECULATE THAT ETHIOPIAN MISSION IS MULTI-PURPOSE ENTERPRISE. IN BRUSSELS WE WOULD EXPECT IT TO EXPLORE IMPLICATIONS OF LOME AGREEMENT FOR ETHIOPIA IN AN EFFORT ASCERTAIN SPECIFIC BENEFITS WHICH ETHIOPIA MAY EXPECT THEREFROM. WE WOULD ALSO EXPECT ETHIOPIANS TO PURSUE BALANCE OF EC FOOD RELIEF AND FINANCIAL DROUGHT ASSISTANCE OFFER BROUGHT HERE LAST YEAR BY KROHN. BULK CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 ADDIS 04811 231413Z

OF THIS EC ASSISTANCE WAS REPORTEDLY DELIVERED, BUT AGREEMENT ON BALANCE WHICH BECAME AVAILABLE AS RESULT ALTERATION EXCHANGE RATES ATTENDANT UPON DEVALUATION OF US DOLLAR WAS NEVER SIGNED. FALLOUT FROM VISIT MAY ALSO BE OPENING OF ETHIOPIAN MISSION OR OFFICE IN BRUSSELS IN ANTICIPATION OF MORE SUBSTANTIAL EC/ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS. THESE RELATIONS HAD HERETOFORE BEEN HANDLED THROUGH ETHIOPIA'S PARIS EMBASSY. QUESTION OF COMPENSATION FOR ASSETS EC-NATIONALS NATIONALIZED BY EPMG (ON WHICH EC MISSIONS MADE JOINT

REPRESENTATIONS HERE) MAY ALSO ARISE.

7. DURING "TRANSIT" OF SWITZERLAND, WE WOULD NOT EXCLUDE FURTHER EFFORT LOOK INTO QUESTION OF EMPEROR'S ALLEGED HOLDINGS IN SWISS BANKS; CONSULTATIONS WITH UN BODIES BASED THERE ALSO APPARENTLY BEING PLANNED.

8. IF DELEGATION GOES TO SWEDEN IT WILL PROBABLY SEEK REASSURANCES THAT THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS MAJOR AID DONOR TO ETHIOPIA, PREPARED TO CONTINUE IN THAT ROLE. SWEDES HERE DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE ETHIOPIANS WILL ASK FOR FURTHER EXPANSION SWEDISH AID EFFORT BECAUSE IN SWEDISH VIEW TEKELIGN GEDAMU, OF ALL PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY WELL-PLACED TO KNOW THAT ETHIOPIA'S ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY IS LIMITING FACTOR AND THAT ETHIOPIA ALREADY UNABLE ADEQUATELY TO PLAN FOR WHAT SWEDES ARE PREPARED TO PROVIDE. ETHIOPIANS LIKELY ALSO WILL WISH EXPLAIN TO GOVERNMENT AT STOCKHOLM CHANGES THAT HAVE OCCURRED HERE FOLLOWING DEATH OF GENERAL AMAN AND PRESENT EPMG'S VIEWS ON HANDLING OF ERITREA AND OTHER QUESTIONS.

9. IN MAKING THESE ROUNDS, FINALLY, ETHIOPIANS WOULD TO A DEGREE ALSO BE BALANCING RECENT VISITS THEY HAVE MADE IN EASTERN EUROPE WITH SIMILAR ONES IN WEST, THEREBY BUTTRESSING NONALIGNED POSTURE TO WHICH THEY CONTINUE TO SUBSCRIBE.
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